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IT MUST NOT BE WAR

Hitler's Peace Plan Should Succeed

BUT FRENCH PREMIER HAS REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE

Germany Called to League Council

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Germany has flung a challenge to Europe that can lead to another great war—or a strong and lasting peace.

IT MUST NOT LEAD TO WAR.

THE FRENCH STATESMEN ARE, NOT UNNATURALLY, ALARMED AND ANGRY AT HITLER'S MARCH INTO THE DEMILITARISED AREAS OF THE RHINE—AN ACTION WHICH FLOUTS THE VERSAILLES PEACE TREATY AND TEARS UP THE LOCARNO PACT.

Last night the French Premier, M. Sarraut, refused even to examine Hitler's eight-point plan for peace, which the German Dictator put forward even as his troops marched.

I am told that Mr. Eden will strongly support France's contention on legal terms that the Treaties have been grossly violated by Germany.

But M. Sarraut is dependent on parties who hate war and favour negotiations with Berlin.

World attention will be centred on the British House of Commons this afternoon, when Mr. Eden makes his statement on the new situation which has so dramatically arisen.

It is anticipated, however, that when the French Government have reviewed Germany's proposals they will be prepared to give them careful consideration, and any dire results from the very delicate situation which exists will be avoided.

HITLER'S ACT NO THREAT TO PEACE

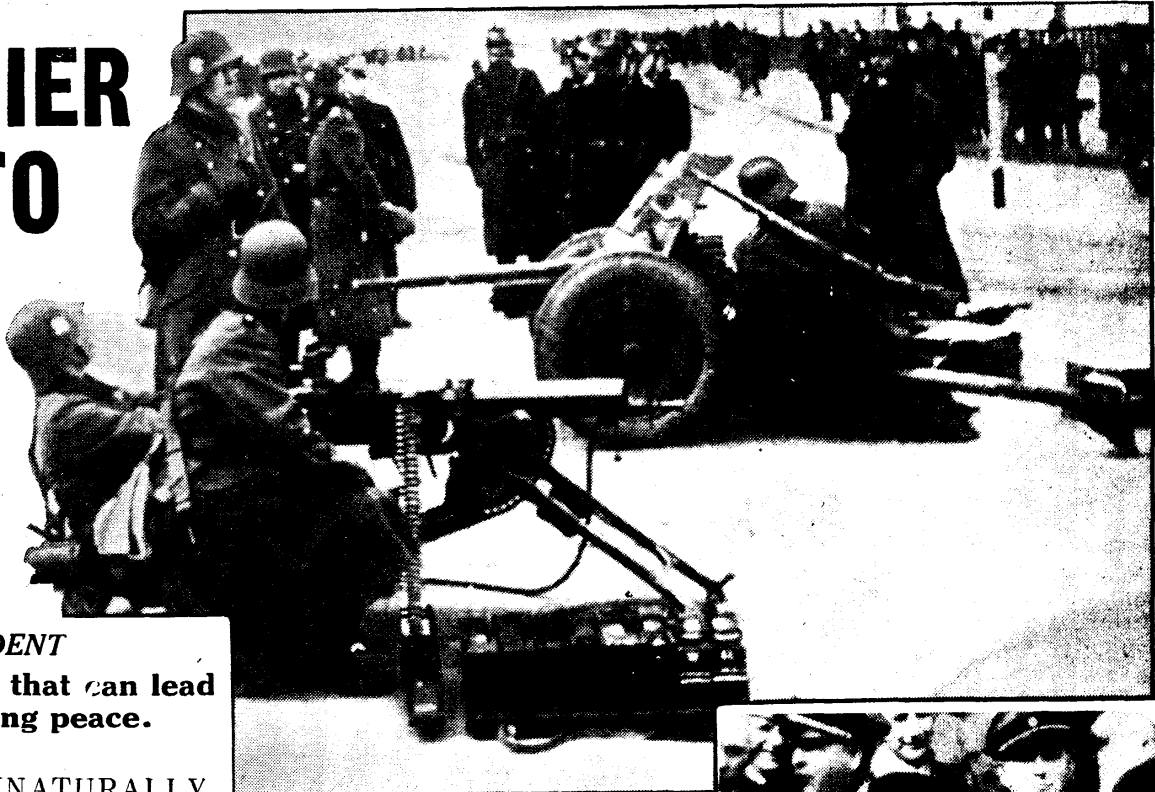
Although German bayonets are again within sight of her frontier fortresses, France is calm.

Another reassuring fact is that Germany has been invited to the meeting of the League Council next Friday, when her breach of the Locarno Pact and the Versailles Treaty in occupying the Rhineland with troops will be considered.

Serious as is this violation of the Locarno Pact (which Germany signed voluntarily) and the Peace Treaty, it is in itself no threat to the peace of Europe. The offer Hitler made of twenty-five-year peace pacts with his neighbours is one that should receive very thorough examination.

The "Let's Be Friends" appeal to France which Hitler made in the

(Continued on back page)



GERMAN MACHINE-GUNNERS establishing positions yesterday at a Mainz bridge, on the Rhine, after they had entered the demilitarised zone.

What Hitler Demands

A dispatch from John Haydon, our special correspondent in Berlin, appears on page 12.



A little German girl waiting with a bouquet to present to the troops when they arrived in Cologne.

ITALY HOLDS UP THE WAR

ACCORDING to reports from Asmara received early to-day, the Italian High Command has ordered suspension of all offensives against Abyssinia, including bombing raids (says Reuter).

The order, it is expected, will remain in force until the outcome of the Geneva negotiations is known.

It is significant that Marshal Badoglio, the Italian Commander-in-Chief, has returned to Asmara.

This dramatic move follows Italy's acceptance, without preliminary conditions, this week-end of a further effort by the League to make peace.

Mussolini recognises that Germany's action has put the Abyssinian war "in the background."

STEAMER SUNK

THE Barrow steamer Sea Fisher (552 tons) is reported to have sunk in the North Sea last night, two and a half miles south-east of the Shipwash light vessel and sixteen miles off Harwich, following a collision with the Newcastle steamer Sutherland.

All the Sea Fisher's crew were saved and are believed to have been taken on board the Sutherland.

The collision occurred in a dense fog.